

Chair, Committee on Contracts



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March 2, 2026

Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore
New York City Fire Department
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Bonsignore,

Firstly - congratulations on your appointment! I am thrilled that a distinguished EMS leader has taken the reins of our Fire Department.

I am reaching out regarding FDNY's testimony at the City Council Committee on Fire and Emergency Management hearing last week. I was deeply concerned to hear FDNY representatives at the hearing testify on the record that they were opposed to protected bike lanes. While they later attempted to correct their testimony, their message and apparent disdain for the work of the Department of Transportation was evident. FDNY personnel testified that they could produce no examples of effective collaboration with DOT - despite written testimony to the contrary. The FDNY representatives offered no productive solutions or ideas.

Protected bike lanes are an evidenced-based solution that save lives. DOT has found that protected bike lanes reduce total deaths and serious injuries by 18%. Pedestrian deaths are cut down by almost 30% after protected bike lanes are installed because they shorten pedestrian crossings of vehicle traffic, reduce speeding, and slow turns at intersections. There were 205 traffic deaths in the city last year, including 111 pedestrians, and 2,947 serious injuries.

Mayor Mamdani has made clear that he is committed to delivering transformational street safety improvements, including achieving a network of protected bike lanes across the city. I hope we can count on you to help create a culture at FDNY of working productively with colleagues in city government to advance critical life saving improvements - like protected bike lanes. Given your decades of experience in emergency medical services, I know you understand the importance of reducing crashes and saving lives more than anyone.

In order for DOT to be able to continue to expand live-saving bike lanes across the City and significantly reducing risk of potential litigation, I am requesting that FDNY commit to the following:

- Providing feedback to DOT on any proposed Major Transportation Projects, including bike lanes, within 30 days
- Confirming to DOT that FDNY has conferred with the affected fire houses as required by law within those 30 days
- Providing a written explanation of the process in which FDNY will review fire house feedback to determine operational risk and potential mitigation strategies

I am profoundly grateful for the life-saving work that our firefighters carry out every single day. My community has faced several large fires in the past few months, and the response by FDNY has been impressive. I am confident that through improved collaboration and communication, we can implement safer street designs without impeding this vital work. I would be happy to meet with you or your team to discuss further.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Restler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lincoln Restler
Council Member
District 33

CC: Julia Kerson, Deputy Mayor for Operations
Mike Flynn, Commissioner, Department of Transportation